

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 26, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ASHLEY made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petition of William H. Bassett, late marshal of the United States for the western district of Louisiana, report:

That the petitioner claims of the United States the sum of one thousand one hundred and twenty-six dollars and twelve cents for his services as marshal of the western district of Louisiana, in the case of the United States *vs.* Matthew Rowe and others, where a vessel (the schooner Henrietta, of Franklin, Louisiana) was seized for an alleged violation of the revenue laws. The petitioner, in support of his claim, refers to a copy of an account made out by the Treasury Department, and which, he says, is annexed to, and made part of, his petition. The committee, finding no such account among the papers referred to them, made application to the Solicitor of the Treasury for such information as the records of the department could furnish in relation to the case, and received, for answer, that "the only trace here of any such proceedings (the proceedings on which the claim is based) is contained in a report from the collector of the district of Teche, dated February 22, 1844, stating that he had caused the schooner Henrietta, of Franklin, to be seized, for having left the United States under a coasting license, contrary to the 8th section of the act of February, 1783;" from which it would appear that no such proof exists as that relied on by the petitioner to substantiate his claim, viz: "an account made out by the Treasury Department."

Accompanying the petition is an account against the United States for the petitioner's services as marshal in the case of the United States *vs.* Matthew Rowe and others, amounting to the sum of \$965 20. This bears no trace of having been made out by the Treasury Department, and varies materially in amount from that said to have been so made out, though evidently put forward and relied upon by the petitioner to prove the same claim, which, in his petition, he alleges to be \$1,126 12. But apart from this discrepancy, which is sufficient to challenge the justness of the claim, the petitioner offers no proof of the services rendered, except a stated account, nor do any of the papers appear to have been presented to the Treasury Department, where, if the petitioner has any

just claim for his services as stated, the accounting officers are abundantly competent, upon the requisite proof being adduced, to audit and pay whatever may be due him.

The committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

REPORT